Annual Average Growth Rate of Agricultural Products

†3529. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual production rate of agriculture was 3.1 per cent in the decade of 80's has come down now to almost 2 per cent in 90's;

(b) if not, the assessment of Government in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for this decline and the estimated rate likely to be gained in the first decade of 21st century?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The annual compound growth rates of agriculture production during the decade of 80's and 90's have been 3.72% and 2.21% per annum respectively.

(c) The deceleration in growth rate of production of agricultural crops taken as a group is mainly on account of deceleration in the rate of growth of yield rates.

The growth rate of production of agricultural crops depends upon a large number of factors such as agro-climatic conditions, performance of monsoon, timely application of seeds, fertilizers, managerial abilities of farmers, level of investment etc. Therefore, it is not possible to estimate at this stage, gain in growth rate in the first decade of 21st century. However, to increase production and productivity and thus growth rate of agricultural crops in the country, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in rice/wheat/coarse cereals Based Cropping System Area, National Pulses Development Project etc. Under these programmes/project, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and use of improved farm implements. Research is also being continuously undertaken to develop improved technologies so as to enhance the productivity and production of foodgrains in India. Field demonstrations on farmers' holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers is being organised for effective transfer of technology.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.